

FEDERACIÓN DE AGRICULTORES DE COLCHAGUA  
Chacabuco 716 San Fernando VI Región Chile

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RE: Docket No. FV03-925-1PR  
Federal Register Vol.70, No. 100, Page 30001  
Grapes Grown in a Designated Area of Southeastern California and Imported  
Table Grapes; Proposed Change in Regulatory Period  
**COMMENTS IN OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED CHANGE**

Dear Docket Clerk:

LA FEDERACION DE AGRICULTORES DE COLCHAGUA opposes the above referenced change in the effective date of Table Grape Marketing Order 925 and the companion Table Grape Import Regulation 4 that will further restrict table grapes supplied from restrictions being placed on table grapes supplied from Chile. LA FEDERACION DE AGRICULTORES DE COLCHAGUA is a trade organization representing 890 growers of fresh fruits in LA SEXTA REGION, including 247 table grape growers from the region.

LA FEDERACION DE AGRICULTORES DE COLCHAGUA concurs with, and incorporates herein by reference, the detailed comments and supporting data submitted by ASOEX, the Chilean Exporters Association. Specifically, LA FEDERACION DE AGRICULTORES DE COLCHAGUA urges the agency to reject the proposed change in the regulatory period because:

1. The Proposed Rule imposes marketing order standards on Chilean supplies when no domestic varieties are available, and therefore constitutes a non-tariff barrier contrary to the terms of WTO Agreements and the U.S.-Chile Free Trade Agreement.
2. The Proposed Rule assesses inspection fees starting April 1 when no domestic supplies are being so charged, and thereby violates Article III and Article VIII of GATT 1994.
3. The proposed change in the beginning effective date of Marketing Order 925 and Table Grape Import Regulation 4 from April 20 to April 1 will have a direct negative impact on our member growers who ship table grapes from April 1 to April 20.
4. The Proposed Rule does not contain any evidence of circumvention by Chilean table grapes sufficient to warrant the proposed change.
5. The change in date from April 20 to April 1 will create an artificial shortage of table grapes since there is no other commercially significant and reliable supply from any source other than Chile.

6. The Chilean grapes supplied from April 1 to the earliest commercially significant supplies of grapes from Coachella Valley in California meet marketing specifications from retail chains that are more stringent in some respects than the marketing order requirements.
7. The proposed change cannot be validly based on a 20 year-old survey of cold storage practices.
8. The proposed change can not be justified under the criteria established by the AMAA for a change in the beginning effective date of Marketing Order 925 or the companion Table Grape Import Regulation 4 in view of the record prices received by Coachella Valley growers in the last two seasons.

Members of LA FEDERACION DE AGRICULTORES DE COLCHAGUA have made substantial capital investment over time to produce and supply quality table grapes worldwide. The proposed change in the effective beginning date will create a serious business risk to our member growers because of the uncertainty and the cost involved in the transportation of the fruit. We strongly urge USDA to reject the Proposed Rule.

Respectfully submitted,

ENRIQUE ULLOA MORENO  
PRESIDENTE  
FEDERACIÓN DE AGRICULTORES DE COLCHAGUA